

Glimpses of the Progress of Agriculture
as Seen in the History of the
State Agricultural Society.

The State Fair in effect permanently located at Sacramento by the action of the annual meeting held in the new pavilion on January 18, 1890. At this meeting the Board of Directors reported that permanent location of the fair had been decided. The culture of the soil, the routine of successful crops, the judicious return of food to the soil, the construction of permanent fences and buildings, and the planting of shade and ornamental trees for the protection and enrichment of the stock-raising industry, the subject of thought and action, amounting, in many cases, to actual enthusiasm, and signifying, in the strongest possible manner, that our cultivators are not only determined to make the most of the soil, but to make it their own, themselves homes in California, which has suffered in the past from the fact that the sufferer in connection with none in the

to believe that with proper treatment the peach tree may be made to live a long life and bear good crops of fruit to a good old age. This subject was under consideration at the meeting of the State Horticultural Society on the 25th of last month, and was discussed in a very interesting and instructive manner among the peach. His report of the great antiquity of the peach before the Christian era, and during the reign of the Czar, the peach was extensively cultivated and a general favorite. It has maintained a favored place among the fruits of the temperate zone down to the

earthen plates or dishes and put them in the sun to dry, which will take about a week; after which pack them down in small wooden boxes, with fine white sugar between each layer. Tomatoes prepared in this manner will keep for years.

GALLED SHOULDER.—An Illinois farmer gives the following direction for curing galled horses, and says that it is infallible: "Take old leather and burn it to a crisp, rub the ashes on the galled part. A few applications will effect a perfect cure. A new work-horse put to the plow this spring received several such applications, and now has but few applications of the burned leather made than as sound as if never injured, and no scar is now seen."

American and English Breakfast Tables—
A British Service Described—Coffee-Pots, Egg-Cups, etc

the fact, they must soon be beaten from the market. It is not ten years ago that the poetries of America had their first grand strides. It may reasonably be predicted that designs of original merit will find their way into the market. There is no reason why

AMERICAN PORCELAIN

Should not far out rival that of foreign manufacture in cheapness, for within the vast area of the States every ingredient necessary for the manufacture of the most delicate and expensive china of Europe or the East can be found, and certainly there are no longer exists such a reason for failure as that given by Mr. Packer. Philadelphia, when, in 1825, he closed his porcelain works, because he was unable to find

NERVOUS HEADACHE.—Dr. Ghidischlager, of Daezig, says that he has found salicylate of sodium to be a remedy of great value in the treatment of nervous headache, especially if given in a dose of one gramme (gr. xv) in the beginning of an attack. It immediately produces drowsiness, and after a few hours the patient wakes up refreshed and free from pain. It, however, often produces a violent effect in cases dependent on gonorrhea.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1882

Meteorological Observations—Taken at Signal Station at the Same Moment.

SACRAMENTO, September 8, 1882—5:02 P. M.

Place of observation	Time	Barometer	Thermometer	Wind	State of the sky	State of the weather
Olympic	5:02	29.95	64	N. Light	Clear	Clear
Portland	5:02	29.95	64	N. Light	Clear	Clear
Roseburg	5:02	29.95	64	N. Light	Clear	Clear
Medford	5:02	29.95	64	N. Light	Clear	Clear
Seaside	5:02	29.95	64	N. Light	Clear	Clear
San Francisco	5:02	29.95	64	N. Light	Clear	Clear
San Diego	5:02	29.95	64	N. Light	Clear	Clear

Maximum temperature, 59; minimum, 50. JAMES A. BAIKOW, Sacramento, Signal Corps, U. S. A.

THE RECENT CONVENTIONS.

Have furnished the occasion to point out the value of the WEEKLY RECORD-UNION as it is in two parts at the close and in the middle of the week. The full reports of the proceedings of the Conventions of this and of last week were before the readers of the WEEKLY RECORD-UNION, in one of the other of the parts, almost simultaneously with their publication in the daily papers. Readers of the old style of weeklies received through them no material account of the proceedings of the Conventions until over a week after they convened. The WEEKLY RECORD-UNION, besides being thus of special value because of its double issue, is also the best of papers for the student, family, business man and citizen interested in the political history of the day. For the farmer, business man, housewife, sporting man, artisan, educator, professional man and general reader, it is at once the best and most reliable of weeklies. Its departments are many, and are all specially and ably edited with a view to attain the highest excellence, contributing to the most rapid development of the country and the cultivation of the highest intelligence among the people. The WEEKLY RECORD-UNION is having an unprecedented growth, both in rapidity and permanency. It reaches into every part of the land, and is found in street, market, business house, rural home, miners' cottages, on train and steamer, in mountain and in valley villages—indeed, in all sections. It is mailed for one year for the sum of \$2.50, post-paid, to any address.

THIS MORNING'S NEWS.

In New York Government bonds are quoted at 110 1/2 for 4s; 111 1/2 for 4 1/2s; 101 1/2 for 5s; sterling, \$4.85 1/2; silver, 114.

Silver in London, 124 1/2; consols, 90 1/4; 10s, 102 1/2; United States bonds, extended, 102 1/2; 4s, 122 1/2; 11 1/2.

In San Francisco half dollars are quoted at 1 1/2; dimes, 10; cents, 10 1/2.

Mineral stocks continue to decline at San Francisco. Values of some descriptions are about where they started from at the commencement of the recent deal.

The woman found drowned at San Francisco Thursday has been identified as Mrs. Hannah Shaw, a widow.

In the Eleventh Michigan district, the Republicans have nominated Edward Breuninger for Congress to succeed J. A. Hubbell.

Judge Weaver has been nominated for Congress by the Republicans of the First Nebraska District.

A six-year-old horse was sold at London yesterday for \$30,000, the purchaser being a citizen of Erie, Pa.

A fire at Reno, Nev., yesterday, destroyed a dozen small buildings.

Arvin C. Frederick, 17 years old, was sentenced at Napa yesterday to three years in the State Prison for grand larceny.

At Fresno, Nev., a man named George was killed by Lewis Carpenter, in a quarrel growing out of a horse race.

Admission Day will be celebrated in grand style to-day at San Rafael by the Pioneer.

A drunken man, name unknown, walked into the river at Portland, Or., yesterday, and was drowned.

The Republicans made substantial gains in the recent election in Arkansas.

Ex-Congressman Storm has been nominated by the Democrats in the Eleventh Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

Special Taylor, a legislator, shot and killed James Brown at Corns Valley, Ky., Wednesday night.

P. H. Dunn, nominated by the Democrats for the Assembly in San Luis Obispo county, declines the honor.

Recent sales of real estate in San Luis Obispo county are unprecedented.

At Manila, Thursday, 170 persons died of cholera, and 229 deaths occurred in neighboring villages.

The Marquis of Lorne and party were at Omaha yesterday, and will reach Sacramento next Wednesday.

The recent earthquake at Panama caused damage to the amount of several hundred thousands of dollars, and killed several persons.

Roaming bands of Indians are creating great alarm in Kansas.

The gambling houses in New York have all been closed by the authorities.

During the past week 110 business failures occurred in the United States.

Marshall Thompson, of Austin, Tex., has been indicted for murder.

The difficulty between Japan and Corea has been arranged.

Trouble is imminent on the border between Albania and Montenegro.

Arabi Pasha is said to be ill with dysentery.

The Yosemite Commissioners are in session at San Francisco.

Bray Bear, who was to have been granted a second reprieve of sixty days.

A grand Republican rally took place last evening at Napa, the gathering being addressed by M. M. Nevada.

James Wilson died suddenly at Columbia Hill, Nevada county, and his widow is suspected of poisoning him.

President Potter of Union College, is to be requested by the Trustees to resign.

The session of the Social Science Association closed at Sacramento yesterday.

The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has declined to commute the sentence of the murderer, Francis Hynes, and he will accordingly be hanged next Monday at Limerick.

Cholera is reported to be raging in China.

At Brownsville, Texas, 15 cases of yellow fever were reported yesterday, and one man died.

Near Cambridge, Md., Thursday, John Rust, in a drunken frenzy, killed his eight-year-old boy.

A fire occurred in the Democratic Convention. The Boston Convention gave a perfectly clear and unvarnished report of it. This seems to have been especially satisfactory to the Convention that by resolution it acknowledged it. There was no occasion for that; the report was in accordance with the uniform rule of this journal. Its reports are always correct and without color. It is the press of a totally distinct city that has given to California journalism so frequently a democratic reputation.

PERHAPS it would be a more difficult task than to solve the puzzle, for the gentlemen who prepared the Democratic county platform to explain what they mean by the declaration against and in favor of the repeal of all laws to restrain citizens in the expression of religious opinions. It was put in as a sop to the ignorant. The committee and the Convention knew well enough there are no such laws to repeal, and that the Sunday law has not the slightest color of that character.

At Grand Valley, one of the political parties held a meeting to select delegates to a convention. Only 21 were needed, but 145 candidates put in their names. Thereupon the meeting put all the names into the wheel of chance and let the blind guides pick out it, who were declared the delegates. The chances are that the party got as good a set of representatives, if not better, than if the usual method had been employed—but for all that it is not a plan to be approved.

ARRANGEMENTS are in progress at San Francisco to give the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess, his wife, a grand reception. If the truth was known well wagers that the Marquis and wife would give a round sum if they could be spared the affliction.

The recent district fair held at Petaluma was, it is said, one of the most successful ever held in the State. More interest was shown by the people, both by exhibitors and visitors, than on any previous occasion at a district fair.

The stomach is a great factor in politics. The man who realizes this fact knows just when to move to adjourn in a convention, and just what arguments to advance to secure the adjournment.

MR. DOYLE'S IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION.

Mr. Doyle has come forward lately.

the character of a reformer, and has in this character shown how completely he has abandoned all the theories on this subject which he held when he was a member of the Board of Railroad Commissioners. At that time he was satisfied that cost of service could not be made the standard of freight charges, and he said so very emphatically in his report. Now he is equally convinced that cost of service ought to be made the basis of freight charges, though his arguments in support of this position are singularly sophistical and insincere. It would be a hopeless task to follow Mr. Doyle and refute every one of his misstatements, deceptive implications, instances of false logic, and general crooked reasoning; but we will endeavor to do justice to the most flagrant of his offenses against truth and candor. In the first place he seeks to make a point by saying that the classification of freight on different railroads, is different. Now this is unavoidable, the reason being that the conditions of transportation are never the same on any two roads. Volume of particular kinds of freight, distance carried, values in terminal markets, are all different on different roads, and therefore the fact that classification varies has no significance. In the second place Mr. Doyle lays down as an axiom a proposition which is not true. He says, and italicizes the assertion: "Railroads are public highways just as much as turnpike roads are." Now this is not the fact. There is no analogy between railroads and turnpikes. Further on Mr. Doyle speaks of a railroad franchise as being identical with a toll-road franchise, and this is nonsense. Railroads are not in fact public highways in the sense that turnpike roads are. They are not open to any one to use. They can in fact only be used by the corporations that own them. Mr. Doyle says that "the whole public" are entitled to transit over them on "equal and impartial terms." As a fact the whole public have transit over them on equal and impartial terms, but passenger traffic is one thing and goods traffic is another.

The flimsiest and best respectable argument made by the ex-Railroad Commissioner is that in which he tries to reduce the existing rule of freight charges to absurdity by showing that the drayman, the telegraph operator, etc., would have the same right to base their charges upon what the customer would pay. In fact there is no analogy between the cases. The business of transportation by rail is one which is intimately combined with the maintenance of the prosperity of whole States and sections. A great railroad, covering many hundreds of miles of territory, has to minister to the needs of widely separated communities. The wider its scope the more it is necessitated to carry cheap products grown far from the markets, at very low rates. Thus in this State the Southern Pacific has carried wheat nearly 200 miles practically for nothing. It has done this because if it had refused to do it a considerable section would have been abandoned by the settlers, and all the prospective business obtainable from the development of that part of the State would have been lost. But the Southern Pacific could not have carried this wheat for nothing if it had not been able to recoup itself on more costly freight. Had it been forced down to arbitrary rates on Mr. Doyle's plan, it must have refused to carry the Southern wheat at all, and let that section go to ruin. No other business is affected by any such considerations as these, and therefore attempts to introduce the drayman and the telegraph operator, etc., are simply disingenuous and evasive.

The basis upon which the classification of freight now rests is not, as Mr. Doyle asserts, a false one. It is his argument which is false and feeble. As to his discovery that the existing system amounts to the imposition of an *ad valorem* tax upon the merchandise transported, it is only necessary to inquire, what if it does? You may call any charge a tax, if you please, but it does not affect its legitimacy or its equity. Mr. Doyle admits perforce that railroads are entitled to levy tolls, and he is lawyer enough to know that a toll is a tax. Again, since he is also compelled to admit that railroads are entitled to charge insurance on all goods transported, there is practically nothing left for him to claim, for between the admitted right to charge toll and the admitted right to charge insurance, the right to levy an *ad valorem* tax issues quite naturally and inevitably, and if Mr. Doyle fails to perceive this he has far less penetration than we had supposed. But he falls into a very serious error when he tries to define the limit of railroad charges, and asserts that "as common carriers they are entitled to a reasonable compensation, based on the necessary cost of the service rendered." They are entitled to a reasonable compensation for the service rendered, not for the cost of the service rendered. There is here a vital distinction, and we are surprised that Mr. Doyle should have sought to evade it. The necessary cost of the service rendered, interpreted as he interprets it, has never been made the basis of compensation, and never can be. The service rendered can only be ascertained by reference to the value of the goods transported, and therefore what the goods will bear is a necessary factor in the charge. This Mr. Doyle could recognize when he was Railroad Commissioner, and it is remarkable that he should have so completely repudiated his convictions of that period.

He now talks as though it were a perfectly easy matter to ascertain the cost of transportation; yet in 1877, in his report as Railroad Commissioner, he said: "It is not possible to ascertain the actual cost of movement in advance of the close of the season. So large a proportion of the cost of managing and operating a railroad consists of fixed expenses which are necessarily the same in amount without reference to the volume of business transacted, that the actual cost of transportation of any particular lot of freight over that of running the train without it is scarcely appreciable; it amounts to little more than that of handling the goods. The cost of transportation in this case cannot be the basis, nor the profit on it the measure, of a proper charge for carriage, because each parcel of freight should also bear its due portion of the necessary general expenses of the road. This is impossible to as-

without considering the whole of business—a thing liable to continued fluctuation, and impossible to be known in advance." That is what Mr. Doyle thought about it in 1877. In 1882 he rejects all his former opinions, and coolly declares that it is now the easiest thing imaginable to do what he formerly asserted to be impossible. And he has a complete panacea. Everything is to be simply classified by weight and measurement, or, as he puts it, with a funny affectation of precision, the new principles are to be a "unit of weight, a unit of measurement, a terminal charge and a rate for risks, published rates and no deviation."

Now Mr. Doyle's brilliant discovery has only one serious defect; that is to say, it is impracticable. A unit of weight and a unit of measurement have been tried on the English railways, and the method would not work. In fact Mr. Doyle's railroad remedies have the peculiarity of being in every case discredited by actual experiment. The system, on the other hand, which obtains on the California railroads, is that which all the railroads of the world are operated upon. The basis of "what the traffic will bear" is the universal basis for freight charges, and innumerable Railroad Commissions have failed to find any better method, or any which produced as satisfactory results. The plan proposed by Mr. Doyle is utterly impracticable, and we cannot believe that he is unaware of this. An attempt to introduce it would at once paralyze transportation and production together, and while it would produce results of the most disastrous nature to the producers generally, it would bring no corresponding benefits to the dealers in high-class merchandise. The fact is that the existing system is the most advantageous possible to the producing classes. They obtain the benefit of low rates because the railroads are enabled to charge high rates on costly goods. Should this system be changed, and a uniform rate be substituted for it, it would necessarily be very much higher than the present minimum, and therefore the great body of the producers and shippers would experience from the new regime nothing more satisfactory than a decided increase in their freight bills. Mr. Doyle attempts to forestall this criticism by denying that the change he proposes would enhance the cost of transportation, and asserts that this is demonstrable. We, however, flatly deny his assertion, and challenge him to the demonstration. We affirm that what he proposes could have no other effect than to raise the rates of freight on the bulk of all goods transported, and that it would immediately raise the rates very considerably upon all freight which now obtains minimum rates. In fact, Mr. Doyle's attempted exposition of the alleged abuses of the existing system is a conspicuous failure, illogical, disingenuous and impracticable. He has neither refuted the position of Governor Stanford, nor has he made good his own. He has only still further exposed his own inconsistency, shown how much he has forgotten since he was a member of the Railroad Commission, and how incompetent he is to deal with a subject which demands at once patience, sagacity and a rectilinear comprehension. There is, unfortunately, a sinister bias to Mr. Doyle's comprehension which suggests the existence of a chronic mental deformity.

HENRY GEORGE AND HIS THEORY.

Henry George must have astonished his London audience the other night when he informed them that "the fight for the nationalization of land was becoming universal;" but he no doubt surprised them still more when he went on to observe that the only thing he disapproved in Michael Davitt's land scheme was "his proposition to pay the landlords compensation, which Mr. George thought to be a wicked thing." The truth is that Henry George has succeeded in persuading himself that, because the land was acquired by force and fraud several hundred years ago, therefore the present possessors of it can have no claims to compensation. This is not his own idea, but merely an expansion of one which Herbert Spencer put forward tentatively in his first published work—many parts of which he has since seen reason to abandon. Mr. George's assertion that the fight for the nationalization of land is becoming universal is as loose and irrational as his deductions from Herbert Spencer's premises. As a matter of fact, the nationalization of land is not being demanded in any country on the face of the earth to-day. In Ireland Michael Davitt's scheme has been repudiated in the most emphatic way, nor is there any country in which the idea of land nationalization is more repugnant to the prevailing theories than in that island. Michael Davitt even thought it utterly impracticable to propose land nationalization unless coupled with a provision for the purchase of the land, and then his proposal was rejected. Henry George, however, insists that the State should take possession of all the land everywhere without rendering any compensation, and whoever goes forth to advocate so preposterous and dishonest a policy is certain to have his labor for his pains. Henry George's theory is radically and fatally mistaken; or rather the theory, originated by others, which he has taken up and sought to place upon a logical basis, is radically defective. It is a pity to see a man of real ability thus wasting his time in the pursuit of a chimera.

A DIFFICULTY IN NAVAL WARFARE.

London Engineering, discussing the bombardment at Alexandria, points out a very serious difficulty in naval warfare. It says: "The difficulty of fighting the guns with precision, and of defending a ship against torpedoes and torpedo boats, will be very great after an action has commenced, by reason of the accumulation of smoke and the time it takes to clear away. As soon as the ships began to fire at Alexandria a bank of smoke rose like a wall, and prevented the results of the fire from being watched. From the very commencement it was so dense that nothing could be seen of what the enemy were doing. Orders had to be given several times to cease firing until the smoke had cleared away; but it always settled down again as heavily as before, the moment firing was resumed. The danger from torpedoes and torpedo boats is of course the most serious one in this connection. Had the Egyptians possessed torpedoes and known how to use them, it does not seem possible that the English could have de-

fended themselves against them. In a naval battle this danger would be still greater, and the fleet over which the smoke blew would be at tremendous disadvantage. Nor is it at all easy to suggest a means of obviating this smoke embarrassment. At sea it might be done by maneuvering, but when forces are to be attacked the vessels cannot choose their own positions, and must take their chances of being completely blinded by their own smoke. As regards the great question of ships versus forts, military opinion is unchanged by the Alexandria bombardment. It remains to the effect that no ships have yet been built, or are likely to be, which could successfully assault forts armed with the heaviest guns of the time.

THE LOSSES OF THE STRIKERS.

The Eastern strikes are nearly all ended, and they have ended in the complete defeat of the strikers, who after wasting a great capital, and getting in debt, and enduring much suffering, have been compelled to beg to be taken on again at the reduced rates. The employers have not only not saved anything by the strikes, but have saved money. They have been enabled to shut their works at a period when they could only have manufactured at a loss. It was cheaper for them to stop than to go on, but in order to benefit their handiwork they were willing to go on at reduced rates. Instead of recognizing the pressure of circumstances the stupid hands refused this proposition, and struck. They committed the fatal blunder of striking on a falling market, and they were warned at the time that they would repeat their foolish action. But the mischief-making imbeciles who mismanage the trades organizations encouraged and ordered the strikes, and so scores of thousands of men were thrown out of work, and have passed the entire summer without earning a dollar. Now winter is coming, and they perceive that they must accept work at the reduced rates, or starve. They are in debt heavily as well, and it will probably take them several years to clear themselves. This is what they get from their strikes. The press generally warned them, but they trusted to their own idiotic leaders, and now they must smart for their perverseness. In order to show what such a strike really does for the strikers we take from the Chicago Tribune an estimate of the strike at the Harmony Mills, Cohoes, N. Y.: "Whole number of employees thrown out of work by the strike, 4,000. The weavers were the 'most important, and they secure work at an average of \$1.10 per day; their total loss in wages during the strike was \$116,000. The loomless or overers, mule-spinners and spinning-room hands were \$14,900. In the carding-rooms 500 employees lost \$14,000, while the loss to the children in the spinning department was \$25,000. Spoolers and warpers lost \$18,000, and other hands \$16,500. Total loss in wages, \$267,240. These are the figures at the reduced wages. The operatives are now in arrears \$15,000 for rent alone, not including what they owe for food, provisions, clothing, and other necessities of life." Thus we have in black and white the balance-sheet of a strike in one mill. Does any workman believe that it was worth doing? Yet what has happened was fully predicted at the beginning of the strikes, and the strikers cannot therefore allege that they had no means of obtaining sound and disinterested advice. The trouble with the working classes generally, however, is that they are absurdly suspicious of advice given by those who do not earn their bread in precisely the same way. They will listen with perfect confidence to some ignorant fellow who does not know what he is talking about, merely because he happens to be an artisan like themselves; but when they are told what is for their good by men who have given study and investigation to the matter, they as a rule reject the counsel on the score that it must be in the interest of capital. Here, however, is a fair test of that. These strikes were said to be ill-advised and certain of failure, when they were first undertaken. They have proved to be ill-advised, and they have failed. On the other hand the clever managers of the various trade unions urged and recognized the strikes; and their judgment and knowledge have been proved to be utterly worthless. Until the working classes have sense enough to recognize their real friends, to accept frank and good advice whenever it is offered, and to cease pinning their faith upon fools simply because they are of their own class, they cannot expect to do themselves any real good by their organizations. This year their organizations have only done them harm, and involved them in debt, distress and difficulty. And this is a fair sample of the shallow and purblind policy which their own leaders almost invariably devise and recommend. It is significant that the labor organization has as yet had the sagacity to perceive that the tariff is the deadly enemy of the American working classes, and that while it is maintained it will be impossible for American labor to secure its rights. In the matter of strikes, however, there will assuredly have to be a speedy and radical reform, or the whole system of labor organizations will be thrown aside as mere instrumentalities of mischief and sources of evil to their members.

A STARKING DISCOVERY.

Judge Wylie, now trying the Star Route cases, announced in Court on Thursday that efforts had been made to corrupt several members of the jury in the interest of the defendants. It is stated that the jurors who were approached have informed the Court of the nature of the propositions made to them. It is also suspected that one or two of the jury have taken bribes and said nothing to the Court. As it cannot be believed that Judge Wylie would have made the announcement unless he was sure of the facts, the discovery must be regarded as a real one. The counsel for the defense seems at first to have thought it possible to shift the responsibility for the alleged corruption on to the Government, but as one of the jurors is understood to have stated that he was asked to acquit the two Dorsey's, this line will evidently not answer. If the attempts at corruption are proved they will throw a somewhat lurid light upon Colonel Ingalls' recent eulogy of the honesty of the Dorsey brothers. This development is also very likely to render the acquittal of the defendants impossible, since it can only be interpreted as a confession of guilt on

their part. It does not appear to be thought that either of the counsel for the defense have had any connection with the attempts to bribe the jury.

A FREE-THINKING UNIVERSITY.

The Convention of Free-thinkers recently held at Watkins Glen, New York, was evidently in many respects an eccentric and fantastic body. It is in the nature of things that such a Convention can only represent those ultra opinions which are the result of imperfect knowledge, mental incapacity, or positive intellectual unsoundness. The sober-minded free-thinker has no disposition to exhibit himself, or to organize, or to adopt "platforms," or to read or write essays or poems, or to pass resolutions. He is content to keep his opinions to himself, or at the most to insist only that those who hold different views shall refrain or be restrained from all measures of coercion or tyranny. Toleration in fact is the alpha and omega of the rational free-thinker's policy. The National Convention which assembled at Watkins Glen, however, was an aggressive and progressive body, and its energy and enthusiasm impelled it to the adoption of various wholly untenable positions. Of course there is always danger that people who set out with demands for the largest liberty may end by trying to coerce their fellows. Just so the Puritan Fathers, after abandoning their country to secure freedom for the observance of their religion, no sooner found themselves independent than they began to oppress and tyrannize over all who held other creeds than their own. The Watkins Glen Free-thinkers in the same way appear to have among them many persons who would not hesitate to put down religion with the sword, in the name of Liberty. About the only movement in a practical direction made by them was the appointment of a committee to inquire into the feasibility of founding a Free-thinking University. Precisely on what basis this institution was to rest was not determined, but it is obvious that the mere proposition brings forward several interesting and important questions.

Of course it may be at once admitted that a University founded upon such ultra and aggressive theories as many of the Convention entertained, would be only productive of absurdity, and would necessarily fail. But it is by no means to be assumed therefore that a Free-thinking University could not be established upon rational foundations. We cannot agree with the *Nation* when it says that such an institution "must be an institution designed for the education of youth as well as for the propagation of atheistic opinions." We do not see that the propagation of atheistic opinions is at all necessarily involved in the curriculum of such an institution. Supposing that the University was founded upon the ideas of rational Free-thinkers, we can imagine that it would be sought, not to educate the students in hostility toward any religion, but to teach them the exact truth about the origin and growth of all religions. The instruction on this subject would be very important, no doubt. It would differ radically from anything of the kind hitherto attempted, though perhaps largely of the methods of the Tübingen school. The *Nation* asserts that "one great object of the University must be the establishment and preservation and inculcation of a true atheistic morality." That is hardly a fair way to put it. For "atheistic" morality we should substitute "agnostic morality," and there is a vital distinction between the two. Now as regards an agnostic morality, the system is already in existence, and Mr. Herbert Spencer will, we trust, live to complete the most masterly and exhaustive analysis of it that the human mind has ever undertaken.

A Free-thinking University which taught the philosophy of Herbert Spencer would not be an object of ridicule, nor can it be asserted that its system of morality would be defective. That it would have to teach a moral system based upon something else than religion is obvious; since by its method of teaching the history of religion the latter could not become the foundation of a moral system. In fact the elimination of the supernatural and the miraculous at once divests religion of all significance as a basis for morals, and it is possible that in a Free-thinking University the instruction might proceed somewhat further, and include an examination of the analogies of fallacy which underlie all creeds. Whether it is at all necessary to establish a Free-thinking University is quite another question. We think that there is really no demand for anything of the kind, and that if it were attempted it would probably fall under the management of the "cranks" in a short time, and become a scandal and laughing-stock. That is the tendency, just as it is the tendency for all the extremists in opinion to attend such a Convention as that of Glen Watkins. Of course it was not in any true sense a representative body, or it represented only the most highly and unstable elements of thought in the country. From such a Convention nothing solid or valuable need be expected, and we do not anticipate any practical results from the appointment of the University Committee. But we do think that if the conservative body of Free-thinkers, who were not represented at Glen Watkins at all, resolved upon such a step, it would certainly be possible for them to establish a University which would bestow upon its students a more complete and less faulty education than can be obtained at any existing institution of the kind.

NO ROOM FOR CONTROVERSY.

Those who say that the Sunday law plank of the Republican Convention satisfies them, thereby confess that they have no desire to see any Sunday law in operation. About this there is no room for doubt, since the Republican plank only declares in favor of the present laws, or similar ones. Now any laws which are similar to the present ones will be as ineffective as the present ones. It is mere nonsense to pretend that the words "similar laws" mean "better laws." They do not mean anything of the kind. Whoever, therefore, affirms that the Republican party is pledged by its platform to the passage of more effective Sunday laws than the present ones, either willfully intends to deceive, or is incapable of comprehending the plainest language. The truth is that no man who earnestly believes in the necessity of more effective legislation for the preservation of the Sunday holiday can accept the Republican plank on that question, or can regard

it in any other light than as a weak and shallow subterfuge. As we have said before, there is no issue on this subject between the Democratic and Republican parties, for both have alike surrendered to the elements which are hostile to Sunday legislation.

MR. HARRISON WANTED.

Mr. Harrison, a whisky-seller of San Francisco, recently delivered a speech against the railroad contract system. In the course of it he quoted what he claimed to be a letter written to him by Mr. Vining, Freight Agent of the Union Pacific, and in which he was threatened with ostracism by that corporation. Mr. Vining now writes to the *Chronicle*, saying that he never wrote the letter referred to, and that he never uttered any such expressions as were employed in it. The *Chronicle* tries to defend Harrison, but in so doing only refuses a new element of falsehood into the case. It says that Harrison introduced the letter as having been written to some one else. He did not. He distinctly said that Vining had written it to him, and he went on to relate how he had taken it to Mr. Stubbs and shown it to the latter. It looks now as though the letter was a fabrication, and Mr. Vining's emphatic denial makes it necessary for Mr. Harrison to come forward and explain, if he can, how he came to possess it, and how, above all, he came to assert that it had been written to him. Perhaps the end of this episode may not prove as good an advertisement for Harrison's whisky as the beginning was.

EGYPTIAN EXPECTATIONS.

The dispatches state that General Wolseley has completed his preparations, and that an immediate advance of the whole English army will be made. It is expected that a serious engagement will take place on Monday or Tuesday, always provided that Arabi does not fall back and abandon his position. Recent information regarding the strength of his army represents it as being very much larger than had been previously supposed. It is said now that he has about 23,000 men of all arms, of which 44,000 are infantry. It does not appear doubtful that he has many more guns than his opponents, and as his artillery is very well served, according to the testimony of General Wolseley himself, this is a serious advantage. The British cannot apparently make their advance with much more than 25,000 men, and as they will have to assault intrenchments, and possess an inferior artillery, it is possible that the work of driving Arabi back may be a very costly undertaking. Of course, however, it is possible that half of his men are of no account, and that they may throw away their arms and run, instead of fighting.

"CAPTAIN" PAYNE.

"Captain" Payne, the Indian Territory invader, has once more been captured by the troops, and is in custody. The Government evidently does not know what to do with him now that it has got him. The laws are so defective that he can only be imprisoned a short time, and there is nothing to hinder him from passing the remainder of his life in making similar raids. The man appears to have a monomania on the subject, but it is a very inconvenient and expensive one for the Government. Congressmen are afraid of their constituents, and prefer to subject the Government to the charge of bad faith with the Indians, to protecting its treaties.

THE GREENBACKER NOMINATIONS.

The State Greenback Convention has evolved a full State ticket, at the head of which stands Major McQuiddy, while Miss Anna Potts is the nominee for Attorney-General. The ticket generally is as eccentric as the platform and the proceedings of the Convention. In fact it is a regular "comeouter" ticket, and when its members get on the stump we have no doubt that they will enliven the campaign greatly. It is said that Major McQuiddy considers himself sure of the solid vote of Massie Slough, and that therefore he does not care very much how San Francisco and other parts of the State go. Thus there are already three tickets in the field, and the returns from State Conventions are not yet half in. There is a possibility of at least three more tickets, and a probability of two, so that nobody need complain of want of variety.

THE ILLINOIS DEMOCRATS.

The Illinois Democrats have just held their State Convention, and in their platform have taken the bull by the horns and gone in for open opposition to all temperance measures. It was in fact emphatically a free whisky Convention, and its course would tend to simplify matters in Illinois by making a clear-cut issue on the prohibition question. The Democrats have perhaps taken the correct course from their standpoint, inasmuch as the whisky elements are almost all with them already, and they could not hope to catch any Republican votes by trimming. The prohibitionists will now be compelled to rely wholly upon the Republicans, or to come out independently and nominate their own ticket. The prohibition issue will be prominent in the approaching campaign, in any event.

The Vallejo *Chronicle* says divorce is only the logical result of carelessness in stepping into the matrimonial halter, and on this text it enlarges. But the fact is, that it is often the result of whisky, native brutality, and morbid passions. All the cure in the world in entering the married state is of no avail if either party fails to exercise the same care after passing the threshold. It would be a better statement to make our contemporary's little text read, that divorce is the result of carelessness of the life partner's feelings and rights and affections after stepping into the matrimonial noose.

The city authorities of Omaha, Neb., place barrels of ice-water at street-corners for the benefit of thirsty pedestrians, and have followed often the barrels over into the gutter, whence, probably, these base fellows have just crawled. Don't believe it! If they crawled into the gutter with the water, there was whisky in the barrels. We know of nothing else that will so readily make a man crawl in the gutter.

The Board of Managers of the Milwaukee Exposition have rejected a proposition to keep the exhibition open on Sundays. The suggestion was made in the nominal interest of the working people, but investigation and inquiry showed that the working people did not favor such an innovation.

Just one-fourth of the 1,600,000 people in the employ of the railways of the country are engaged in railway construction.

SAN FRANCISCO.

Meeting of the Yosemite Commissioners.—The Browne Woman Identified.—Deaths of a Chinaman.—Chinese Procession on Trial.—Annual Regatta—sudden Death.—Etc.

[SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE RECORD-UNION.]

Settled in Full.—The Browne Woman Identified.

SAN FRANCISCO, September 8th.—Henry L. Fox, of the San Francisco Stock Board, who recently suspended, has settled with his creditors in full, and resumed business.

The body of the woman found in the bay yesterday morning has been identified as that of Mrs. Hannah Shaw, a widow. Deceased was much addicted to drink. She left home Wednesday evening, saying "You will see me no more," and an hour later was drinking in a water-front saloon.

Meeting of the Yosemite Commissioners.

SAN FRANCISCO, September 8th.—The Yosemite Commissioners to-day granted permission to the Yosemite Stage and Turpin Company to build a stage road to the summit of Glacier House, and to give the same company permission to take passengers into the valley by trail, or in any way impair the saddle-trail privileges. Permission to build a hotel at Glacier House, which was ordered that the road around the floor of the valley be completed; also a new trail to Nevada Falls. Adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow.

The Death Record—Chinese Procession on Trial.—Informations Filled.

SAN FRANCISCO, September 8th.—During the week 101 deaths were reported at the Health Office—45 males and 56 females. There were 21 deaths of infants under one year, and 31 deaths occurred in public institutions.

The trial of Lin Quai, the alleged Chinese priest, on a charge of importing Chinese girls for immoral purposes, was commenced to-day before Judge Hoffman and a jury in the U. S. District Court-room.

Information has been filed in the Criminal Court against John Gibson for murder; Ah Low, assault with a deadly weapon, and Allen Wetherbee, assault to murder.

Five Years Imprisonment—New Trial Granted.

SAN FRANCISCO, September 8th.—John McFadden was sentenced by Judge Freeman today to five years imprisonment

